



Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Reverend Dr. Eric S. C. Manning

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BIBLE SURVEY: A SIX-MONTH WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY FOR MOTHER EMANUEL AMEC

Purpose: Psalm 119:105 declares, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” This Bible Survey study is grounded in the conviction that God’s Word still illuminates the journey of faith. For Mother Emanuel AMEC, this six-month Wednesday night study invites students to walk through the whole counsel of Scripture with prayerful attention, faithful study, and practical application. Each lesson helps participants see how every book of the Bible contributes to God’s redemptive story, reveals God’s character, forms disciples, and equips the church to live with courage, wisdom, holiness, justice, mercy, and hope.

This study uses a Bible Survey format because students need both the “big picture” and the “daily path.” The big picture helps the class understand how Genesis through Revelation fits together as a unified testimony of creation, covenant, fall, redemption, restoration, and new creation. The daily path helps each learner apply each book’s message through assignments, discussion questions, fill-in-the-blank reviews, word-search vocabulary, and key word studies. In this way, the Bible becomes more than information to be collected; it becomes light to be followed, truth to be trusted, and wisdom to be practiced in the life of the church and community.

SIX-MONTH COURSE STRUCTURE

Month	Focus	Books Covered
Month 1	Beginnings, Covenant, Deliverance, Holiness, Wilderness, Covenant Renewal	Genesis–Deuteronomy
Month 2	Land, Judges, Kings, Kingdom, Exile, Return	Joshua–Esther
Month 3	Wisdom, Worship, Suffering, Meaning, Love, Prophetic Hope	Job–Song of Solomon; Isaiah–Daniel
Month 4	Minor Prophets and the Call to Covenant Faithfulness	Hosea–Malachi
Month 5	Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God, the Church, and the Gospel	Matthew–Acts
Month 6	Christian Doctrine, Discipleship, Church Life, Hope, and New Creation	Romans–Revelation

WEEKLY LESSON PATTERN

1. Opening prayer and scripture reading.
2. Book overview and summary.
3. Key biblical characters and their role in God's story.
4. Key word studies for theological understanding.
5. Discussion questions for group reflection.
6. Weekly assignment for personal study.
7. Fill-in-the-blank review.
8. Word-search vocabulary list for reinforcement.
9. Closing application: What is God teaching Mother Emanuel AMEC through this book?

Genesis

Key Biblical Characters: God, Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, Judah, and Pharaoh.

Genesis opens with God as Creator, bringing order, beauty, life, and purpose into existence by His word. Humanity is created in the image of God and called to reflect God's character while faithfully stewarding creation. Sin enters through human disobedience, breaking fellowship with God and bringing shame, conflict, and death. Yet even after judgment, God gives the first promise of redemption, pointing to victory over evil. The stories of Cain and Abel, Noah, and Babel show how sin spreads through jealousy, violence, corruption, and pride, while God's mercy preserves life and prepares the way for His redemptive plan through one family. God calls Abraham and promises land, descendants, and blessing for all nations through his family. The lives of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph show that God works through imperfect people to preserve His covenant purposes. Genesis ends in Egypt, with Joseph declaring that what others meant for evil, God meant for good, preparing the stage for Exodus.

Key Word Studies

- **Creation:** God's act of bringing all things into being, showing His authority, wisdom, and goodness.
- **Covenant:** A sacred commitment initiated by God, especially seen in His promises to Noah and Abraham.
- **Blessing:** God's favor and life-giving purpose, meant to flow through Abraham's family to all nations.
- **Image of God:** Humanity's calling to represent God's character, dignity, and stewardship in the world.
- **Providence:** God's faithful guidance of events, seen clearly in Joseph's life.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Genesis teach us about God before it teaches us about humanity?
2. How does being made in the image of God shape the way we see ourselves and others?
3. Where do you see grace appearing even after human failure?
4. How does Abraham's call help us understand faith and obedience?
5. What does Joseph's story teach about forgiveness, suffering, and God's providence?

Weekly Assignment

Read Genesis 1–3, 12, 15, 22, 37, 45, and 50. Write one paragraph answering this question: How does Genesis show that God remains faithful even when people fail?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Genesis begins with God as _____.
2. Humanity is made in the _____ of God.
3. God promised Abraham land, descendants, and _____.
4. Joseph said, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for _____."
5. The major theme of Genesis is God's faithful _____ plan.

Word Search Vocabulary

Creation, Covenant, Blessing, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Providence, Image, Eden, Flood, Babel, Promise, Faith.

Exodus

Key Biblical Characters: Moses, Pharaoh, Aaron, Miriam, Jochebed, Amram, Zipporah, Joshua, the Israelites, and the Lord God.

Summary

Exodus begins with Israel suffering under slavery in Egypt while God remembers His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses is preserved as a child and later called by God at the burning bush to confront Pharaoh. God reveals His name and power, showing that He alone is Lord over Egypt, Pharaoh, and creation. The ten plagues expose Egypt's false gods and demonstrate God's judgment and mercy, while the Passover teaches Israel that deliverance comes through the blood of a substitute. God leads Israel through the Red Sea, turning oppression into liberation and fear into worship. In the wilderness, Israel learns dependence as God provides manna, water, guidance, and protection. At Mount Sinai, God gives the covenant law, shaping Israel into a holy people. The golden calf reveals the danger of idolatry, while Moses' intercession reveals God's mercy. Exodus ends with the tabernacle filled by God's glory, showing that the Redeemer desires to dwell among His people.

Weekly Assignment

Read Exodus 1–4, 7–12, 14, 19–20, 24, 32–34, and 40. Write a one-page reflection on how God delivers His people, forms them through covenant, and chooses to dwell among them. Identify one “Exodus moment” in your own life or in the life of Mother Emanuel AMEC where God brought liberation, protection, or renewed worship.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Exodus show that God hears the cries of oppressed people?
2. What does Moses' call teach us about reluctance, obedience, and God's patience?
3. Why is the Passover important for understanding deliverance and redemption?
4. How does the Red Sea crossing shape Israel's identity as God's redeemed people?
5. What does the tabernacle reveal about God's desire to dwell with His people?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Exodus begins with Israel suffering under _____ in Egypt.
2. God called _____ at the burning bush to confront Pharaoh.
3. The _____ teaches that deliverance comes through the blood of a substitute.
4. God led Israel through the _____ Sea.
5. Exodus ends with God's glory filling the _____.

Word Search Vocabulary

Moses, Pharaoh, Egypt, Slavery, Burning Bush, Plagues, Passover, Red Sea, Manna, Sinai, Covenant, Commandments, Tabernacle, Deliverance, Worship.

Key Word Studies

- **Deliverance:** God's saving action that rescues His people from bondage, danger, and fear.
- **Passover:** The night God spared Israel through the blood of the lamb, pointing to redemption and protection.
- **Covenant:** God's binding relationship with Israel, marked by promise, law, worship, and faithful obedience.
- **Tabernacle:** The sacred dwelling place where God's glory rested among His people in the wilderness.
- **Redemption:** The act of being set free through God's power and grace.

Leviticus

Key Biblical Characters: Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar, the priests, the Levites, the Israelites, and the Lord God.

Summary

Leviticus teaches Israel how a holy God can dwell among an unholy people. The sacrifices show that sin is serious and fellowship with God requires atonement, while the priesthood is established so that worship may be ordered, reverent, and faithful. Clean and unclean laws teach Israel to discern holiness in daily life, and the Day of Atonement stands at the center of the book as the annual cleansing of the nation's sin. God calls His people to holiness because He Himself is holy. Leviticus connects worship with ethics, including justice, compassion, truthfulness, and love of neighbor. The feasts shape Israel's calendar around God's saving acts and covenant faithfulness. Blessings and warnings remind Israel that obedience brings life while rebellion brings discipline. Leviticus prepares readers to understand the need for a perfect priest, sacrifice, and mediator fulfilled in Christ.

Weekly Assignment

Read Leviticus 1, 4, 8–10, 16, 19, 23, and 26. Create a two-column chart: in the first column list what Leviticus teaches about holiness, sacrifice, worship, and community ethics; in the second column describe how each theme points believers toward deeper reverence, repentance, and love of neighbor today.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Leviticus teach about the holiness of God?
2. How do the sacrifices help us understand sin, forgiveness, and worship?
3. Why is the Day of Atonement central to the message of Leviticus?
4. How does Leviticus connect worship with justice, compassion, and love of neighbor?
5. In what ways does Leviticus prepare believers to understand the work of Christ?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Leviticus teaches how a _____ God can dwell among an unholy people.
2. The sacrifices show that sin requires _____.
3. The _____ of Atonement is central to the message of Leviticus.
4. God calls His people to be holy because He is _____.
5. Leviticus connects worship with justice, compassion, and love of _____.

Word Search Vocabulary

Holiness, Sacrifice, Atonement, Priesthood, Offering, Clean, Unclean, Worship, Neighbor, Justice, Feast, Sabbath, Mercy, Obedience, Mediator.

Key Word Studies

- **Holiness:** God's perfect purity and the calling of His people to be set apart for Him.

- **Atonement:** The covering or cleansing of sin so fellowship with God can be restored.
- **Sacrifice:** An offering brought to God that teaches the seriousness of sin and the need for mercy.
- **Priesthood:** The ministry appointed to guide worship, offer sacrifices, and represent the people before God.
- **Clean and Unclean:** Categories that trained Israel to recognize holiness, separation, and reverence in daily life.

Numbers

Key Biblical Characters: Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Joshua, Caleb, Korah, Eleazar, Phinehas, Balaam, Balak, the spies, the Israelites, and the Lord God.

Summary

Numbers follows Israel from Mount Sinai through the wilderness toward the promised land. The census shows that God is organizing His people for worship, order, and mission, while Israel's journey reveals the tension between God's faithfulness and human unbelief. The people repeatedly complain, testing God's patience and Moses' leadership. The spies' report at Kadesh-barnea becomes a tragic turning point when fear overcomes faith, and unbelief causes Israel to wander for forty years as one generation gives way to another. Even in judgment, God continues to provide manna, water, guidance, and protection. The bronze serpent shows that healing comes through trusting God's appointed provision. Balaam's oracles reveal that God can bless His people even through unexpected voices. Numbers teaches that God remains faithful to His promises while calling His people to trust and obey.

Weekly Assignment

Read Numbers 6, 11–14, 20–21, 22–24, and 27. Keep a spiritual journal for the week noting places where fear, complaint, impatience, or unbelief appear in daily life. At the end of the week, write a prayer asking God to replace wilderness habits with trust, gratitude, and obedience.

Discussion Questions

1. What patterns of complaining or unbelief appear in Numbers, and why are they spiritually dangerous?
2. How does the wilderness become both a place of testing and a place of God's provision?
3. What can the report of the spies teach us about fear, faith, and community influence?
4. How does the bronze serpent point to God's mercy and healing?
5. What does Numbers teach Mother Emanuel AMEC about trusting God during seasons of transition?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Numbers follows Israel through the _____ toward the promised land.
2. The census shows that God was organizing His people for worship, order, and _____.
3. The spies' report at Kadesh-barnea revealed fear instead of _____.
4. The bronze serpent showed that healing comes through trusting God's appointed _____.
5. Numbers teaches that God remains faithful while calling His people to trust and _____.

Word Search Vocabulary

Wilderness, Census, Manna, Complaint, Faith, Fear, Spies, Kadesh, Wandering, Bronze Serpent, Balaam, Blessing, Promise, Obedience, Provision.

Key Word Studies

- **Wilderness:** A place of testing, dependence, discipline, and discovery of God's faithful provision.
- **Complaint:** A repeated response of unbelief that reveals distrust in God's goodness and leadership.
- **Census:** A numbering of the people that shows order, identity, and preparation for community life and mission.
- **Provision:** God's ongoing care through manna, water, guidance, and protection even during difficult seasons.
- **Faithfulness:** God's steady commitment to His promises despite human weakness and rebellion.

Deuteronomy

Key Biblical Characters: Moses, Joshua, Aaron, the Levites, the elders of Israel, the Israelites, and the Lord God.

Summary

Deuteronomy records Moses' final sermons to Israel as they prepare to enter the promised land. Moses reviews Israel's history to remind the people of God's faithfulness and their failures. The book calls Israel to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength, and it repeats the Ten Commandments as the foundation of covenant life. Israel is warned not to forget God when they experience blessing and success. Deuteronomy emphasizes that obedience flows from covenant love, not mere ritual duty. Moses sets before the people the choice between life and death, blessing and curse. The book calls leaders, families, and communities to teach God's word across generations. Moses' death reminds Israel that leadership changes, but God's promise endures. Deuteronomy prepares the way for Joshua by urging the people to remember, love, obey, and trust God.

Weekly Assignment

Read Deuteronomy 5–6, 8, 10, 28, 30–31, and 34. Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4–5 and write a family or ministry discipleship plan describing how God's word can be taught across generations. Include one practical action Mother Emanuel AMEC can take to help children, youth, adults, and elders remember the Lord together.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Moses spend so much time reminding Israel of their past before they enter the promised land?
2. How does the command to love God with heart, soul, and strength shape faithful discipleship?
3. What warnings does Deuteronomy give about forgetting God in seasons of blessing?
4. How can families and churches teach God's word across generations today?
5. What does Deuteronomy teach about choosing life, obedience, and covenant faithfulness?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Deuteronomy records Moses' final _____ to Israel.
2. Israel is called to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and _____.
3. The Ten Commandments are repeated as the foundation of _____ life.
4. Moses sets before the people the choice between life and _____.
5. Deuteronomy urges the people to remember, love, obey, and _____ God.

Word Search Vocabulary

Moses, Sermons, Covenant, Commandments, Shema, Love, Remember, Obey, Blessing, Curse, Life, Death, Promise, Generations, Faithfulness.

Key Word Studies

- **Shema:** Israel's confession that the Lord is one and must be loved with heart, soul, and strength.
- **Remember:** The spiritual practice of recalling God's works so faithfulness is renewed across generations.
- **Obedience:** The covenant response of love, trust, and loyalty to God's commands.
- **Blessing and Curse:** Covenant outcomes that teach the seriousness of choosing life with God or rebellion against Him.
- **Generations:** The call to teach God's word to children, youth, adults, and elders so the covenant story continues.

Joshua

Key Biblical Characters: Joshua, Rahab, Caleb, Achan, Eleazar, the Gibeonites, and the tribes of Israel.

Summary

Joshua begins with a leadership transition as God commissions him to lead Israel after Moses' death. God commands Joshua to be strong and courageous because His presence will remain with the people. Rahab's faith shows that God's mercy extends beyond Israel to all who trust Him, and the crossing of the Jordan River confirms that the God who parted the Red Sea still leads His people. The fall of Jericho teaches that victory comes through obedience, worship, and dependence on God, while Achan's sin at Ai reveals that hidden disobedience can affect the whole community. The conquest narratives show God fulfilling His promise to give Israel the land, and the division of the land reminds Israel that inheritance is both a gift from God and a responsibility to steward faithfully. Joshua's final speeches call the people to reject idols, renew the covenant, and choose whom they will serve.

Weekly Assignment

Read Joshua 1–2, 3–6, 7, 10, 20, and 24. Write a reflection on what it means for a church family to be strong and courageous during seasons of transition. Include one way Mother Emanuel AMEC can renew its commitment to serve the Lord together.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does God repeatedly command Joshua to be strong and courageous?
2. What does Rahab's story teach about faith, mercy, and inclusion?
3. How does the Jordan crossing connect Joshua to the Exodus story?
4. What does Achan's sin teach about community holiness?
5. How can Joshua 24 shape a church's commitment to serve the Lord?

Fill in the Blanks

1. God commanded Joshua to be strong and _____.
2. Rahab showed faith by protecting the _____.
3. Israel crossed the _____ River into the promised land.
4. The walls of _____ fell after Israel obeyed God's command.
5. Joshua called the people to choose whom they would _____.

Word Search Vocabulary

Joshua, Courage, Rahab, Jordan, Jericho, Ai, Achan, Caleb, Covenant, Inheritance, Land, Gibeonites, Obedience, Shechem, Serve.

Key Word Studies

Courage: Trusting God's presence enough to obey Him despite fear or uncertainty.

Inheritance: God's promised gift of land and blessing, received with responsibility and faith.

Covenant Renewal: A recommitment to live faithfully under God's promises and commands.

Holy Obedience: Faithful response to God that honors His holiness in community life. **Serve:** A life of worshipful allegiance to the Lord alone.

Judges

Key Biblical Characters: Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah, Micah, and the unnamed Levite.

Summary

Judges describes Israel's life after Joshua, when the people failed to remain faithful to the covenant. The book traces a recurring cycle of sin, oppression, crying out, and deliverance, revealing God's mercy even when Israel is spiritually unstable. Deborah's leadership highlights wisdom, courage, and faithful obedience in a difficult generation, while Gideon's story reveals both God's power working through weakness and the danger of later compromise. Jephthah's vow illustrates the tragedy that follows when zeal lacks wisdom and Scripture-shaped discernment, and Samson's life displays great strength alongside the destruction caused by unchecked desire and pride. The final chapters reveal deep moral confusion and social breakdown, captured by the repeated phrase that everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Judges teaches the need for righteous leadership and points forward to a faithful King who can truly deliver.

Weekly Assignment

Read Judges 2–4, 6–8, 11, 13–16, and 21. Chart the cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance. Write one paragraph identifying a modern “cycle” that churches must resist and one spiritual practice that can help break it.

Discussion Questions

1. What happens when a community forgets God's covenant?
2. How does the cycle in Judges appear in personal or church life today?
3. What strengths and weaknesses do you see in Gideon and Samson?
4. Why is spiritual leadership so important in seasons of moral confusion?
5. How does Judges create longing for a righteous King?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Judges follows a cycle of sin, oppression, crying out, and _____.
2. Deborah served as a wise and courageous _____.
3. Gideon learned that God can work through human _____.
4. Samson's downfall was connected to pride and unchecked _____.
5. The book says everyone did what was right in their own _____.

Word Search Vocabulary

Judges, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Delilah, Barak, Jephthah, Oppression, Deliverance, Idolatry, Cycle, Covenant, Strength, Weakness, King.

Key Word Studies

Judge: A deliverer raised by God to rescue and guide Israel during crisis. **Idolatry:** Giving worship, trust, or allegiance to anything other than the Lord. **Deliverance:** God's merciful rescue of His people despite their repeated failures. **Compromise:** Spiritual drift that weakens obedience and opens the door to sin. **Righteous Leadership:** God-honoring guidance that helps a community remain faithful.

Ruth

Key Biblical Characters: Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Orpah, Elimelech, Mahlon, Chilion, and Obed.

Summary

Ruth is set during the time of the judges, a dark national season, yet it shows faithfulness. Naomi's family leaves Bethlehem because of famine and endures deep grief in Moab, yet Ruth chooses covenant loyalty by leaving her homeland to remain with Naomi and Naomi's God. Ruth's gleaning in Boaz's field reveals God's providence in ordinary circumstances, and Boaz shows kindness, protection, and generosity toward Ruth and Naomi. The kinsman-redeemer becomes central as Boaz offers restoration to the family line, while Naomi's bitterness is slowly transformed as God provides hope through Ruth's faithfulness. Ruth, a Moabite woman, is welcomed into Israel's story by grace and faith, and the birth of Obed connects Ruth and Boaz to the family line of King David. Ruth teaches that God works quietly through loyalty, kindness, and redemption to advance His saving plan.

Weekly Assignment

Read Ruth 1–4 in one sitting. Write a one-page reflection on how Ruth's loyalty, Naomi's grief, and Boaz's kindness reveal God's providence in ordinary family life. Include one example of how Mother Emanuel AMEC can practice covenant loyalty, compassion, and redemption in the wider community.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Ruth show faithfulness during a painful and uncertain season?
2. What does Naomi's journey teach us about grief, bitterness, hope, and restoration?
3. How does Boaz demonstrate godly kindness, protection, and generosity?
4. Why is Ruth's inclusion in Israel's story important for understanding God's grace?
5. How does Ruth point forward to redemption through the family line of David and ultimately to Christ?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Ruth takes place during the time of the _____.
2. Naomi's family left Bethlehem because of a _____.
3. Ruth showed covenant _____ by staying with Naomi.
4. Boaz served as a kinsman-_____ for Ruth and Naomi.
5. The birth of Obed connects Ruth's story to the family line of King _____.

Word Search Vocabulary

Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Orpah, Bethlehem, Moab, Famine, Loyalty, Gleaning, Kindness, Providence, Kinsman-Redeemer, Obed, David, Redemption.

1 Samuel

Key Biblical Characters: Hannah, Eli, Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, David, Goliath, Michal, Abigail, and the Philistines.

Summary

First Samuel tells the story of Israel's transition from the period of the judges to the beginning of the monarchy. The book opens with Hannah's prayer and the birth of Samuel, showing that God hears the humble and raises leaders for His purposes. Samuel becomes a prophet, judge, and spiritual guide during a time of national instability. Israel asks for a king like the surrounding nations, revealing a desire for security that often competes with trust in God. Saul is anointed as Israel's first king and begins with promise, but his fear, impatience, and disobedience lead to his rejection. David is then chosen, not because of outward appearance, but because God looks at the heart. David's defeat of Goliath reveals faith and courage rooted in confidence in the Lord. Saul's jealousy and decline contrast with David's patient trust as he refuses to seize the throne by violence. Jonathan's friendship with David shows covenant loyalty in a divided royal household. First Samuel teaches that leadership must be shaped by obedience, humility, and dependence on God.

Weekly Assignment

Read 1 Samuel 1–3, 8–10, 13, 15–17, 18–20, 24, and 31. Write a reflection on the difference between outward success and inward obedience. Identify one leadership lesson from Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, or David that can strengthen the life of Mother Emanuel AMEC.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Hannah's prayer set the spiritual tone for 1 Samuel?
2. Why did Israel want a king, and what did that request reveal about their trust in God?
3. What caused Saul's leadership to fail?
4. How does David's defeat of Goliath demonstrate faith rather than self-confidence?
5. What does Jonathan's friendship with David teach about covenant loyalty?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Hannah prayed for a son and gave birth to _____.
2. Israel asked for a _____ like the surrounding nations.
3. Saul was rejected because of repeated _____.
4. David defeated _____ with faith in the Lord.
5. God told Samuel that He looks at the _____.

Word Search Vocabulary

Hannah, Samuel, Eli, Saul, Jonathan, David, Goliath, Philistines, Anointing, Obedience, Heart, Kingdom, Jealousy, Covenant, Leadership.

Key Word Studies

Anointing: The act of setting someone apart for God's service and leadership. **Obedience:** Faithful submission to God's word above personal preference or public pressure. **Heart:** The inner life that God sees beyond outward appearance. **Kingdom:** Israel's political and spiritual life under royal leadership. **Covenant Loyalty:** Faithful love and commitment shown especially in Jonathan's relationship with David.

2 Samuel

Key Biblical Characters: David, Nathan, Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab, Absalom, Mephibosheth, Michal, and Solomon.

Summary

Second Samuel focuses on David's reign as king over Israel. The book begins after Saul's death and traces David's rise from king of Judah to king of all Israel. David captures Jerusalem and makes it the political and spiritual center of the kingdom. The ark is brought to Jerusalem, underscoring David's desire to honor God's presence among the people. God makes a covenant with David, promising that his house and kingdom will be established, a promise that points forward to the Messiah. David shows kindness to Mephibosheth, revealing covenant mercy. Yet David's sin with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah bring devastating consequences for his family and kingdom. Nathan's confrontation underscores the importance of prophetic truth and repentance. Absalom's rebellion reveals the painful effects of sin, pride, and broken family relationships. Second Samuel teaches that even a great king needs mercy and points beyond David to the perfect King who will reign in righteousness.

Weekly Assignment

Read 2 Samuel 5–7, 9, 11–12, 15–18, and 22. Write a one-page reflection on David's leadership, his failure, and God's mercy. Identify one lesson about repentance, accountability, or covenant faithfulness that can strengthen the spiritual life and leadership culture of Mother Emanuel AMEC.

Discussion Questions

1. How does David's rise to kingship show both God's promise and God's timing?
2. Why is the Davidic covenant important for understanding the hope of the Messiah?
3. What does David's kindness to Mephibosheth teach about covenant mercy?
4. How does Nathan's confrontation of David show the importance of accountability?
5. What does 2 Samuel teach about the consequences of sin and the possibility of repentance?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Second Samuel focuses on the reign of King _____.
2. David captured _____ and made it the center of the kingdom.
3. God promised David that his house and kingdom would be _____.
4. Nathan confronted David after his sin with _____.
5. Second Samuel points beyond David to the perfect _____ who will reign in righteousness.

Word Search Vocabulary

David, Nathan, Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab, Absalom, Mephibosheth, Jerusalem, Ark, Covenant, Mercy, Repentance, Accountability, Rebellion, Messiah.

Key Word Studies

Davidic Covenant: God's promise to establish David's house and kingdom, pointing forward to the Messiah. **Repentance:** The honest turning from sin back to God, seen in David's response to Nathan's rebuke. **Accountability:** God's use of truth-telling voices to confront sin and call leaders back to righteousness. **Covenant Mercy:** Faithful kindness shown by David to Mephibosheth and ultimately by God to His people. **Kingdom:** The rule and responsibility of leadership under God's authority.

1 Kings

Key Biblical Characters: Solomon, David, Adonijah, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel, Naboth, and the prophets of Baal.

Summary

First Kings opens with the final days of David and the rise of Solomon to the throne. Solomon asks God for wisdom, and his early reign is marked by peace, prosperity, and international influence. The construction and dedication of the temple mark the book's high point, reflecting the desire for God's presence to dwell among His people in Jerusalem. Yet Solomon's heart is gradually turned away by political alliances, wealth, and idolatry, and his failure paves the way for the kingdom's division after his death. Rehoboam's harshness and Jeroboam's rebellion split Israel into northern and southern kingdoms. Jeroboam establishes false worship centers, drawing the northern kingdom deeper into idolatry. The book then highlights prophetic confrontation, especially through Elijah, who challenges King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the prophets of Baal. The contest on Mount Carmel shows that the Lord alone is God. First Kings teaches that wisdom, worship, and leadership must remain rooted in covenant faithfulness and that idolatry brings spiritual and national ruin.

Weekly Assignment

Read 1 Kings 3, 6–8, 11–12, 17–19, and 21. Write a one-page reflection on how wisdom, worship, and leadership can be corrupted when the heart turns from God. Identify one way Mother Emanuel AMEC can guard its worship and leadership from spiritual compromise.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Solomon's request for wisdom teach about godly leadership?
2. Why is the temple dedication such an important moment in Israel's story?
3. How did Solomon's divided heart affect the future of the kingdom?
4. What does Elijah's confrontation on Mount Carmel teach about true worship?
5. How can churches recognize and resist modern forms of idolatry?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Solomon asked God for _____ to lead the people.
2. The temple was built in the city of _____.
3. Solomon's heart was turned away by idolatry and foreign _____.
4. The kingdom divided after the reign of _____.
5. Elijah challenged the prophets of _____ on Mount Carmel.

Word Search Vocabulary

Solomon, Wisdom, Temple, Jerusalem, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel, Carmel, Baal, Idolatry, Covenant, Worship, Kingdom.

Key Word Studies

Wisdom: God-given discernment for faithful leadership and righteous judgment. **Temple:** The central place of worship in Jerusalem where Israel sought God's presence. **Idolatry:** Worship or allegiance given to anything in place of the Lord. **Prophetic Confrontation:** God's truth spoken against sin, injustice, and false worship. **Divided Kingdom:** The split of Israel into northern and southern kingdoms because of sin and failed leadership.

2 Kings

Key Biblical Characters: Elijah, Elisha, Jehu, Jezebel, Naaman, Hezekiah, Isaiah, Manasseh, Josiah, Zedekiah, and Nebuchadnezzar.

Summary

Second Kings continues the story of Israel and Judah as both kingdoms move toward judgment and exile. The book opens with Elijah's final ministry and Elisha's receiving a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elisha's miracles reveal God's compassion, power, and concern for outsiders, such as Naaman. The northern kingdom persists in idolatry despite prophetic warnings, and Jehu's reforms are incomplete because false worship remains. Israel eventually falls to Assyria because the people persistently reject the covenant. Judah survives longer, and kings such as Hezekiah and Josiah show that reform, prayer, and trust in the Lord still matter. Hezekiah trusts God during the Assyrian threat, while Josiah renews the covenant after the Book of the Law is discovered. Yet Judah also returns to sin, and the reforms cannot erase generations of rebellion. Jerusalem falls to Babylon, the temple is destroyed, and the people are taken into exile. Second Kings teaches that God is patient and sends warnings through His prophets, but persistent covenant unfaithfulness brings judgment, while hope remains through God's continuing mercy.

Weekly Assignment

Read 2 Kings 2, 5, 17, 18–19, 22–23, and 25. Write a reflection on the difference between partial reform and wholehearted repentance. Include one prayer for renewal in the church, asking God to help His people hear His Word before crisis comes.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Elisha's ministry reveal about God's compassion and power?
2. Why did the northern kingdom fall to Assyria?
3. How does Hezekiah model trust during national crisis?
4. What does Josiah's response to the Book of the Law teach about repentance?
5. What hope remains after Jerusalem falls and the people go into exile?

Fill in the Blanks

1. Elisha received a double portion of Elijah's _____.
2. Naaman was healed after obeying the word of the _____.
3. The northern kingdom fell to _____.
4. Josiah renewed the covenant after the Book of the _____ was found.
5. Jerusalem fell to _____, and the people were taken into exile.

Word Search Vocabulary

Elijah, Elisha, Naaman, Jehu, Hezekiah, Isaiah, Josiah, Assyria, Babylon, Exile, Covenant, Reform, Repentance, Jerusalem, Temple.

Key Word Studies

Exile: The removal of God's people from the land because of persistent covenant rebellion.

Reform: A return to faithful worship and obedience, especially seen in Hezekiah and Josiah.

Prophet: A messenger who speaks God's truth, warning, and hope to the people. **Judgment:** God's righteous response to sin after patient warning. **Remnant:** The preserved people through whom God continues His promises.